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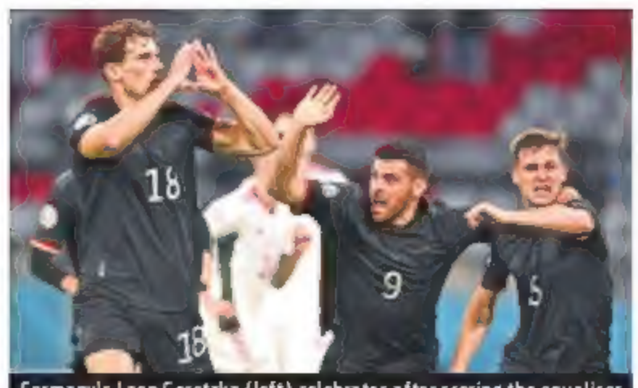

Germany's Leon Goretzka (left) celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Hungary during the Euro 2020 group tie on Wednesday | AP

EURO2020

The madness in Group F completes first stage ride

A big night in the Group of Death saw wild swings, a dubious penalty call, a Ronaldo record as well as setting up a historic clash in the prequarter stage

GERMANY BATTLE, RONALDO EQUALS MARK

The last three years has not been good for Germany's fans. After failing to advance past the group stage in 2018 World Cup, Joachim Low's team trailed twice before scoring an 84th minute equaliser to progress. Elsewhere, Portugal survived their own test with a draw against world champs France with two penalties from Ronaldo.

TWO MOUTH-WATERING CLASHES

Germany's heart-stopping draw means they will face England for a place in the quarterfinals. The two met each other in the semifinals of Euro 1996

In one of the other final round clashes, Spain finally put aside their profligacy to score five past sorry Slovakia. Their reward? A Croatia meeting

16 CLASHES
First of the last 16 clashes, on Saturday, sees Wales play Denmark

THREE
Out of the five goals Ronaldo has scored this edition, three have been penalties

LAST-16 GAMES

June 26 : Denmark vs Wales | 9.30 pm
June 27 : Italy vs Austria | 12.30 am
June 27 : Netherlands vs Czech Republic | 9.30 pm
June 28 : Belgium vs Portugal | 12.30 am
June 28 : Croatia vs Spain | 9.30 pm
June 29 : France vs Switzerland | 12.30 am
June 29 : England vs Germany | 9.30 pm
June 30 : Sweden vs Ukraine | 12.30 am

P17

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EXPRESS READ

Former BBMP member murdered in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: A former woman BJP councillor in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Rekha Kadiresh (46), was stabbed to death near her office in Cottonpet here on Thursday, police said. Police suspect an earlier enmity to be the reason behind the murder. P6

Declare Class 12 results by July 31, says SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed all the state boards to declare results of internal assessment of Class 12 examination by July 31, making it clear that each board is free to formulate its own evaluation method for students and there can't be a "fit-all" scheme. P7

KARNATAKA	JUNE 23	JUNE 24
Fresh cases	4,436	3,979
Recoveries	6,455	9,768
Deaths	123	138

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
June 23 **63,26,649 doses**
June 24 **54,07,060 doses**
TOTAL DOSES: 30,72,46,800

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 23	JUNE 24
Fresh cases	50,848	54,069
Recoveries	68,817	68,885
Deaths	1,358	1,321

PM sets tone to bridge J&K gulf

Calls for physical and emotional outreach; all 14 leaders seek restoration of statehood

SANA SHAKIL AND MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he was working towards removing "*Dilli ki duri* and *Dil ki duri*" (distance between between J&K and Delhi and distance between hearts), in a meeting he chaired with 14 leaders of eight parties from the state.

"Our priority is to strengthen grassroots democracy in J&K. Delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives strength to J&K's development trajectory," the Prime Minister tweeted after the talks at his residence, which lasted over three hours. The meeting came nearly two years after Article 370 was hollowed out and J&K was broken up into two Union Territories.

Restoration of statehood, holding the delimitation process, conducting Assembly elections to restore democracy, release of political detainees, rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits in J&K, ceasefire agreement with Pakistan, Article 370 and protection of land rights were among the key issues that came up for discussion.

While Modi heard all political leaders individually and expressed the Central government's willingness to fulfil most demands raised by them, he was silent when Article 370 was raised by National Conference leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and CPM leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, sources said.

The eight parties that were represented included the National Conference, the PDP, the BJP and the Congress. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha participated.

Restoration of statehood was raised by all 14 leaders. Shah said the government is committed to restoring it, but that would happen after the delimitation process and holding of elections is over. Modi sought cooperation from all parties, irrespective of political differences, to expedite the process.

After the talks, Farooq Abdullah emphasised on the importance of building trust in J&K, saying that restoration of full statehood will be the first trust-building exercise from New Delhi's side. His son Omar said the PM was told about their opposition to what was done on August 5, 2019, when the decision to revoke J&K's special status and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories was announced in Parliament. He added that it was the duty of the Centre to restore the broken trust of the people and said delimitation is not necessary. P10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah and other invitees from J&K at an all-party meeting, in New Delhi on Thursday | PTI

Article 370 abrogated immorally, says Mufti

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said she told the PM that the people of J&K do not accept the manner in which Article 370 was abrogated "unconstitutionally, illegally and immorally"

Am happy to learn that the dialogue between the Union government and leaders of J&K went well, and there was a frank exchange of ideas on a number of issues including restoration of statehood and assembly polls. The people of J&K deserve peace, progress and democracy.
H D Deve Gowda on Twitter

No coercive action against Twitter India MD: K'taka HC

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court, in an interim order on Thursday, restrained the Uttar Pradesh police from taking any coercive action against Twitter India's Managing Director **Manish Maheshwari** on a notice issued to him over a viral video that had taken a communal twist.

However, the court said if the police want to question him or require him for investigation, they may do so virtually.

Justice G Narendar passed the interim order after hearing a petition filed by Maheshwari, a resident of Whitefield in Bengaluru, while adjourning the matter to June 29.

The Loni Border Police in UP had registered an FIR against Twitter Inc and TCIPL (accused No. 8 & 9) on June 15 under Sections 153, 153-A, 295-A, 505, read with 120-B and 34, of the Indian Penal Code.

The video, posted on Twitter, showed an elderly man belonging to a minority community being assaulted in Ghaziabad, allegedly to incite communal tensions.

Maheshwari moved the Karnataka High Court challenging the notice issued by the UP police under Section 41-A of the Criminal Procedure Code, subsequent to the summons issued to him in connection with the FIR.

Maheshwari contended that he is neither the Managing Director of Twitter India Communications Pvt Ltd (TCIPL) nor a board member of TCIPL within the ambit of the Companies Act.

CONTINUED ON: P7

FIR for not complying with new IT rules

The first FIR was filed against Twitter in UP after the social media platform likely lost the intermediary status due to non-compliance with the country's new information technology rules and became liable for prosecution.

CBI files FIR against 18 former cops in ISRO case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ T'puram

THE CBI team probing the conspiracy behind the 1994 ISRO espionage case has filed an FIR in the Thiruvananthapuram Chief Judicial Magistrate Court listing 18 retired state police officers and Intelligence Bureau sleuths as accused. The CBI had initiated the probe on the instruction of the Supreme Court.

It perused the Justice D K Jain report to reach a conclusion that the case ought to be investigated by the premier agency to unearth if there was any conspiracy to frame former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan and others.

In the FIR filed by the Delhi unit, former state Special Branch inspector S Vijayan and then Pettah station sub-inspector Thampi S Durgadutt have been listed the first and second accused, respectively.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Nambi Narayanan

Now, link your passport number to vax certificate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

YOU can now link your passport number to your Covid vaccination certificate through the CoWIN portal for hassle-free travel abroad.

Login to http://cowin.gov.in, select Raise a Issue and then select the passport option. Next select the person from the drop down menu, enter the passport number and submit. The app will send you an updated vaccination certificate carrying the passport number.

The app also allows for one-time name change to ensure that the name on the vaccine certificate and that on the passport is identical. But entering passport number and requesting name change can only be done once, "so please ensure there are no mistakes in entering the details," the Aarogya Setu app tweeted.

Earlier this month, the Centre had announced new guidelines for Covid-19 vaccination, stating that those travelling abroad for education, employment or as part of the contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, will have to get their vaccination certificates linked to their passport. India intends to share its experience with CoWIN globally.

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